

CURRENT TOPICS

A PITTSBURG (Texas) reader of The Commoner asks for the name of the author of the verses entitled "The Aristocrat" as follows:

Who feels within his veins the throbbing pulse
Of power and purpose urging him to dare,
And, yielding to the message, treads down fear,
Rending in scorn his own innate despair?

He is the nobleman! No accident
Of ancestry can equal that fine birth
Of spirit which unlocks the dormant soul
And rounds endeavor to its highest worth.

Who can answer?

WASHINGTON dispatches say that thousands of dollars are being raised by the Japanese on the Pacific coast to aid in giving victory to the "progressive party" in Japan for the overthrow of the present ministry and the guarantee of the naturalization of Japanese in the United States. These dispatches say that the enormous fund now being collected will be used "to arouse a feeling in the Japanese empire antagonistic to the American government."

NOTWITHSTANDING a sweeping denial of the alliance between the Japanese of the Pacific coast and the anti-administration party of Japan which denial was made by Charles Takahashi of Seattle, Wash., the Associated Press secured the text of certain reports which Takahashi forwarded to Yamaoka in Seattle and the Japanese society in Seattle. The Associated Press says: "In one of the reports, which, it was stated today, was afterwards read by Takahashi at a secret meeting of Japanese in Seattle on the evening of May 26, he quotes Ambassador Aoki's statements in regard to the relations between the United States and Japan growing out of the recent disturbances in San Francisco and the adoption by congress of the United States of the immigration law, excluding coolie labor from continental United States."

TAKAHASHI'S report in part is as follows: "My object in discussing the Japanese immigration law with Ambassador Aoki was: First, the nullification of the present immigration limitation law.; second, opposing the would-be immigration law (proposed new treaty) said to be contemplated by Japan and the United States; third, acquiescence in the Japanese naturalization rights in the United States. To these discussions Ambassador Aoki said: 'Japan has ample grounds to oppose the immigration limitation law, but if we go to extremes I fear war. Regarding this Japanese limitation law the Japanese government absolutely disagrees with the United States, and will ask the naturalization rights for the Japanese people which the United States government will have to eventually grant. At present the re-election of a president is nearing, so we are hesitating at this time to bring up these questions, which are unpopular in American politics.' What we must call especial attention to is the fundamental antagonistic statements that the embassy made compared with those of Secretary Straus (interview on May 7.) We can not ourselves be satisfied with such uncertainty and the contradictory statements."

BEFORE THE departure of Takahashi from the city he sent to Yamaoka, who had not then sailed for Japan, a report, in which he told of a conference with Secretary Straus on May 7 regarding the immigration laws. In this report Takahashi quotes re-statements made by Secretary Straus, which he said were directly contrary to those made by Ambassador Aoki as to the agreement of the two governments on the clause concerning the Japanese coolies. "Secretary Straus," the report says, "told us the exclusion clause in the immigration bill, as well as the rule promulgated by the department of commerce and labor on March 22, were made with the consent of the Japanese embassy and the Japanese government. Compared by previous telegrams and reports and you can clearly

see the difference and contradiction from what was assured to us by Ambassador Aoki and Counsellor Miyaoka of the embassy. The Japanese ambassador, as we have stated in our telegrams and reports, assured us that the Japanese government never for one moment agreed with the limitation of immigration as presented to us today." It was after the interview with Secretary Straus that Takahashi and Kawakami received an invitation from Viscount Aoki to dine at the embassy. Takahashi's answer, it is stated, was "we did not come to eat, but to settle grave diplomatic questions." Just before Yamaoka's departure for Tokio, on May 14, Takahashi sent him a telegram from Washington as follows: "Depart for Japan instantly and arouse public opinion as we understood before. There is no hope with the embassy here."

AS THE CROSS examination of Orchard, the assassin and informer, continued, the attorneys for Haywood plainly revealed their purpose. In the language of the Associated Press report: "They repeatedly threw out the suggestion of a great counter conspiracy, formulated and carried out by the enemies of the Western Federation of Miners, and indicated a determination to construct their main line of defense on that field. They carried Orchard by slow steps and through the minutest details from the dynamiting of the Independence station down to the attempt on the life of Fred Bradley and his family, and in addition to a series of particular attacks on the credibility of the witness and the general probability of his stories; and preparing the way for their testimony in rebuttal, they sought to show that Orchard has a mania for boasting of the commission of crimes non-existent except in his own mind and that he is testifying under the control and suggestion of Detective McPartland."

SENATOR JOHN TYLER MORGAN of Alabama died at Washington June 11. He had been in poor health, but his death was not expected. A Washington correspondent for the Denver News says. "John Tyler Morgan was one of the most distinguished members of the United States senate, and was so recognized by all parties. He was born June 20, 1824. He went to Alabama when nine years of age, receiving his education there. He was admitted to the bar in 1845 and began the practice of his profession. He rapidly gained a high reputation as a lawyer and a speaker. He was presidential elector in 1861, voting for Breckenridge, and in 1861 was a delegate to the Alabama convention which declared for secession. He enlisted in the confederate army as a private in 1861. In 1862 he raised a regiment, of which he was made colonel, and in 1863 he was commissioned brigadier general and commanded a division under General Johnston. After the war he resumed the practice of law at Salem. He was presidential elector on the democratic ticket in 1876 and in 1877 was elected to the United States senate. He was five times re-elected, in 1882, 1888, 1894, 1900 and 1906. In 1900 there was no opposing candidate and he received the unanimous vote of the Alabama senate and house."

GOVERNOR HUGHES of New York has vetoed a bill recently passed by the state legislature providing for a two-cent passenger rate on every railroad system in the state more than one hundred and fifty miles long. In his veto message the governor pointed out that "the passage of the bill was not preceded by legislative investigation or suitable inquiry. Nor is the fixing of this rate predicated on reports or statistics which would permit a fair conclusion as to the justice of its operation." The governor also said: "Injustice on the part of railroad corporations toward the public does not justify injustice on the part of the state toward the railroad corporations. The action of the government should be fair and impartial, and upon this every citizen whatever his interest, is entitled to insist. The fact that those in control of railroad corporations have been guilty of grossly improper financiering and of illegal and injurious discriminations in charges points

clearly to the necessity of effective state action, but does not require or warrant arbitrary reprisals. In dealing with these questions democracy must demonstrate its capacity to act upon deliberation and to deal justly. It is of the greatest importance not only that railroads should be compelled to respect their public obligations, but also that they should be permitted to operate under conditions that will give a fair return for their services. Nothing could be more opposed to the interests of the community as a whole than to cripple the transportation corporations by arbitrary reduction of earnings. Considerable differences exist between the railroad corporations with respect to the territory they serve and the cost of service, and it is manifest that what would be fair for one might be far from fair for another." The message reminds the legislature of the newly created public service commissions under a law providing for inquiry into freight rates and passenger fares and for the fixing of such rates as shall be just and reasonable.

JAMES N. ROSENBAUM of Mount Vernon, writing to the New York World concerning the democratic nominee in 1908 says: "In my opinion Senator Rayner will be the nominee. The rank and file of democrats readily concede that Senator Rayner is the strongest democrat in the United States. He is the greatest exponent of Jeffersonian principles. He is a logician of the highest type. His views on the economic issues are sane and practical. He is probably as great a legal authority as there exists in the country. With these sterling qualities he appeals to the majority of thinking people of the United States. Even his political opponent admit that as president Senator Rayner would be a great executive, under whose guidance and strong hand the government would prosper."

THE WESTWARD march of the dandelion pest is receiving the attention of the scientists who delve into such matters. Like the army worm, the greenbug, the chinchbug and the boll weevil, the dandelion pest claims its many victims. It ruins the best kept lawns and wrecks tempers. It seems able to defy all efforts to banish it. Communities that years ago looked upon an occasional dandelion as a pretty little flower, now look upon it as an unmixed evil, for it has turned everything yellow until it turns everything gray and fuzzy with its gaunt stems and filmy seeds. Will the agricultural department at Washington please devote a little time to discovering some bug or weed that will be harmless in themselves but sure death and destruction to the dandelion?

THE RECENT proceedings in Texas wherein the oil trust was assessed \$1,600,000 are not clearly understood even by some people in the Lone Star state. Replying to several inquiries the Fort Worth (Texas) Record says: "The jury held that the Standard Oil company's ownership of a majority of the stock of the Waters-Pierce Oil company constituted a violation of the anti-trust laws of Texas, viz.: the acts of 1899 and 1903. Under these acts each day of operation constitutes a separate offense and incurs a separate penalty. For violating the act of 1899 from May 31, 1900, to March 31, 1903, 1,033 days, the jury assessed penalties of \$1,500 a day, amounting to \$1,549,500, under the option of a minimum of \$200 or a maximum of \$5,000 a day. For violating the act of 1903 from April 1, 1903, to April 29, 1907, the jury assessed penalties of \$50 a day, amounting to \$74,400, making the total fines \$1,623,900. Of this total the county attorney is to receive 25 per cent of the penalties under the act of 1899, \$387,375, and under the act of 1903 he is to receive 10 per cent on the first \$1,000 and 5 per cent on each subsequent \$1,000, \$3,770, making a total of \$391,145. Of this amount Gruet, the informing witness, is to receive one-third. The total share of the state is to be \$1,232,755. The jury undoubtedly held the defendant company to be a violator of the anti-trust laws of the state for the time named in the verdict. Under the instructions of the court the jury found for